

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HDCOLLUMS:AM
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
CA:BWATSON
EUR/SE:RCEWING
SCS:RDAVIS
L/CA:RDALTON
D:MBARNES
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P R 112153Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, TU

SUBJECT: ELEKDAG VISIT: PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY

1. DURING VISIT OF TURKISH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG, DEPT HAS
TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND GOT OF CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST
IN CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS ON PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY AT
EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. TOWARD END OF AUGUST 8 MEETING
WITH ELEKDAG (SEPTELS), DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ NOTED THAT
U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM WOULD TRAVEL TO ANKARA TO BEGIN TALKS
AUGUST 21 AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING TO DATE, WHICH
DEPT HAS USED IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES FROM CONGRESS AND
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MEDIA RE STATUS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

2. ELEKDAG RESPONDED THAT MFA'S PREPARATIONS FOR NEGOTIA-
TIONS ARE UNDERWAY, ALTHOUGH PERSONNEL CHANGES OVER SUMMER
HAVE HAMPERED EFFORTS SOMEWHAT. HE HOPED GOT WOULD STILL
BE ABLE TO MEET AUGUST 21 DATE. HE NAMED AS ONE MEMBER OF
TURKISH NEGOTIATING TEAM METIN KUSTAOGU, WHO HAD ACCOM-

PANIED HIM TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD ASSUME DUTIES AS DIRGEN
OF MFA CONSULAR AFFAIRS SOMETIME AFTER HIS RETURN TO
ANKARA.

3. AT LUNCHEON LATER IN DAY, ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
REITERATED IMPORTANCE OF CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY,

IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN
CONGRESS. ELEKDAG CONFIRMED THAT GOT WOULD BE READY TO
COMMENCE TALKS AS SCHEDULED.

4. ON AUGUST 10 KUSTAOGLU CALLED ON CA ASST SEC WATSON,
WHO INDICATED DEPT AND U.S. CONSULAR OFFICERS WERE PRE-
PARED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO COOPERATE WITH
KUSTAOGLU AND TURKISH MFA ON ALL CONSULAR MATTERS. SHE
GAVE KUSTAOGLU, WHO HAS NOT RPT NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN-
VOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS RE PRISONER TRANSFER TREATY, COPY
OF U.S. DRAFT TEXT TO READ ON PLANE RETURNING TO ANKARA.
SHE REFERRED TO CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC
INTEREST IN STATUS OF AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN TURKEY
AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE COULD RECEIVE DETAILED TURKISH
COMMENTS ON U.S. DRAFT IN SUFFICIENT TIME SO THAT OUR
NEGOTIATING TEAM COULD BE FULLY PREPARED WHEN IT ARRIVES
IN ANKARA.

5. IN RESPONSE, KUSTAOGLU SAID PREPARATIONS WERE ALREADY
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UNDERWAY IN ANKARA AND HE WAS HOPEFUL NEGOTIATIONS COULD
BE CONCLUDED QUICKLY ONCE THEY BEGIN AUGUST 21. CHRISTOPHER

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